AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the protective ~~layer~~ layers further comprises a surfactant.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein, in addition to the at least one of amide-denatured polyvinyl alcohol and diacetone-denatured polyvinyl alcohol, at least one of the protective ~~layer~~ layers further comprises at least one water-soluble polymer selected from the group consisting of denatured polyvinyl alcohols, starch, oxidized starch, urea-phosphorylated starch, styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, alkyl esters of styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, and styrene-acrylic acid copolymers.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the protective ~~layer comprises~~ layers comprise a total thickness of from 0.5 μm to 3 μm.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the at least one of amide-denatured polyvinyl alcohol and diacetone-denatured polyvinyl alcohol is crosslinked by a crosslinking agent.

Claim 7 (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a content amount of from 2 to 40 % by weight relative to the at least one of amide-denatured polyvinyl alcohol and diacetone-denatured polyvinyl alcohol.

Claim 8 (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyaldehyde compounds, titanium lactate, dihydrazide compounds and boric acid.

Claim 9 (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyaldehyde compounds and titanium lactate.

Claim 10 (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises an amount thereof which is contained in the overcoat layer (A).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the inorganic pigment comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of kaolin, aluminum hydroxide, calcium carbonate, zinc oxide, aluminum oxide, titanium dioxide, silicon dioxide, barium sulfate, zinc sulfate, talc, clay, calcined clay and colloidal silica.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the inorganic pigment comprises at least one of kaolin and aluminum hydroxide that has a volume-average particle size of from 0.5 μm to 0.9 μm.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the inorganic pigment comprises a content amount in the overcoat layer (A) in the range of from 10 to 90 % by weight of the overcoat layer (A).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the lubricant comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of zinc stearate, calcium stearate, paraffin wax, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, and synthetic polymer wax.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the lubricant comprises a mean particle size of not more than 0.5 μm.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the electron-receiving compound comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl sulfone, 2,4-bis(phenylsulfonyl)phenol, 4,4'-sulfonylbis(2-(2-propenyl)phenol) and 2-hydroxy-4'-isopropoxydiphenyl sulfone.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the electron-donating leuco-dye comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of phthalide compounds, fluoran compounds, phenothiazine compounds, indolylphthalide compounds, leuco-auramine compounds, rhodamine-lactam compounds, triphenylmethane compounds, triazene compounds, spiropyran compounds, pyridine compounds, pyrazine compounds, and fluorene compounds.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A thermal recording material ~~according to claim 18~~, comprising a support, and a thermal color forming layer and protective layers formed in that order on the support,

the thermal color forming layer containing an electron-donating leuco-dye and an electron-receiving compound,

the protective layers comprising two layers including an overcoat layer (A), which contains as principal constituents inorganic pigment and a water-soluble polymer, and another overcoat layer (B), which is formed on the overcoat layer (A) and contains as principal constituents a lubricant and another water-soluble polymer,

at least one of the protective layers containing at least one of amide-denatured polyvinyl alcohol and diacetone-denatured polyvinyl alcohol,

the water-soluble polymer contained in the overcoat layer (A) including at least a portion of the at least one of amide-denatured polyvinyl alcohol and diacetone-denatured polyvinyl alcohol, and

wherein overcoat layer (B) does not comprise inorganic pigment.